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UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Multinational Programming and Operational Centre (ECA/MULPOC) for Eastern and Southern African States

Seventh Meeting of the MULPOC Committee of Officials

5 - 9 March 1984

LC/NAIROBI

Progress Report on the Establishment of the Eastern and Southern Africa Trade Promotion Training Center

I. Background and Justification

1. The Nairobi-based Trade Promotion Training Center was originally a project of the defunct East African Community. It was funded by the Government of Sweden and was established with the technical assistance of the International Trade Center UNCTAD/GATT. The Training Center extended its activities to all English-speaking countries of Eastern and Southern Africa. The project was phased out in 1980 but activities of the Center continued with facilities offered by the Government of Kenya.

2. It will be recalled that at its Fourth Meeting held in Maseru, Lesotho, 19-22 January 1981, the Council of Ministers of the Lusaka Mulpoc:

(i) approved the recommendation that the Center be converted into a subregional trade promotion training institution under the auspices of the Lusaka Mulpoc and as part of the Preferential Trade Area (PTA);

(ii) directed that the ECA secretariat undertake a study to establish the prospects for financing of the programme.

II. Implementation of decisions made by Lusaka Mulpoc Council of Ministers

3. The ECA secretariat, in co-operation with ITC UNCTAD/GATT, submitted document ECA/MULPOC/Lusaka/V/3 (vii) to the meeting of officials and the Council of Ministers of the Lusaka based Mulpoc which took place from 17 to 25 March 1982 in Lusaka, Zambia. The document gave detailed proposals for a feasibility study on the establishment of the Center. The Council of Ministers took note of the report referred to earlier and decided that: "(a) a feasibility study which would include inter alia, the draft statutes of the Centre be undertaken for submission to an intergovernmental expert group to be convened before the end of 1982; and (b) the report of the Expert Group be submitted to the Mulpoc Council of Ministers at its next session to enable the subregional Training Centre to become operational early in 1983."

4. A study untitled "A proposal for a subregional training development strategy includinggthe establishment of a Training Center in Nairobi" (1/ITC/DIP/RM/23) was subsequently undertaken by ITC and submitted to the MULPOC Council of Ministers Meeting held in Mbabane, Swaziland in February 1983. The Council of Ministers took note of the study and gave mandate to the ECA secretariat to convene a consultative meeting between ESAMI, the Government of Kenya, ITC UNCTAD/GATT and the ECA secretariat (Lusaka Mulpoc and Africa Trade Center), to work out the modalities for the effective establishment of the Centre.

1/ Report of the Fifth Meeting of the Lusaka-based Mulpoc Council of Ministers of Eastern and Southern African States, 23-25 March 1982 ECA/MULPOC/Lusaka/V/18.

5. In compliance with that mandate, a meeting was convened by ECA/MULPOC Lusaka. The meeting took place in Nairobi from 23 to 27 May 1983 between the Kenyan Government, ESAMI and ECA. It considered, amended and adopted the following documents:

1. An outline of the objectives and activities of the Centre.

2. Background information and rationale for the establishment of the Centre.

3. Budget proposals.

4. The Draft Agreement establishing the Nairobi-based Eastern and Southern Africa Trade Promotion Training Centre.

6. The meeting, having examined ESAMI's objectives and functions; agreed that there will not be any overlapping between the activities of ESAMI and the Proposed Trade Promotion Training Centre. A mandate was given to the ECA secretariat for the preparation of a project document for the establishment of the Centre in its capacity as the sponsoring institution. The ECA was also requested to submit the project document to donors and to undertake necessary negotiations for the funding of the Centre. The report of the Consultative Meeting and the documents which were prepared by the working group are separately submitted 2/.

2/ - ESAMI objectives and functions
- Outline of the objectives and activities of the Centre
- Background information and rationale for the establishment of the centre
- Budget proposals
- Draft agreement establishing the Nairobi based eastern and southern Africa trade promotion and training centre.